

Serial Number: 09/926,356

Group Art Unit: 2876

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously presented): An authenticity evaluation method of substrates having a security facility, said security facility consisting essentially of a non-conducting plastic support, on which at least two conducting areas spaced apart are provided, wherein the at least two conducting areas spaced apart of the security facility are directly electrically interconnected by means of respective connections with a predefined conduction direction, said method at least comprising the step of detecting the conducting direction of the security facility, and comparing the detected conducting direction with a reference conducting direction.

20. (Previously presented): The authenticity evaluation method according to claim 19, comprising the further steps of measuring the size of a section of the security facility, which section has a conduction in one direction, and comparing the size thus measured with a reference size.

21. (Previously presented): The authenticity evaluation method according to claim 19 or 20, wherein a number of conducting areas are present on the non-conducting plastic support, which are interconnected in series by means of respective diode connections with a predefined conducting direction.

22. (Previously presented): The authenticity evaluation method according to claim 19 or 20, wherein a diode connection comprises a number of rectified, identical diodes.

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23. (Previously presented): The authenticity evaluation method according to claim 19 or 20, wherein one or more diodes of a diode connection is/are made from organic semiconductor polymers or inorganic semiconductor materials.

24. (Previously presented): The authenticity evaluation method according to claim 19 or 20, wherein the non-conducting support is a plastic thread.

25. (Previously presented): The authenticity evaluation method according to claim 19 or 20, wherein the security facility is selected from, a security thread or an optically variable device, a foil provided with specific optical diffraction and/or reflection such as a foil stripe.

26. (Previously presented): The authenticity evaluation method according to claim 19 or 20, wherein the conducting areas comprise metal, these metal areas consisting of signs entirely surrounded by metal, said signs themselves being metal-free.

27. (Previously presented): The authenticity evaluation method according to claim 19 or 20, wherein the metal of the metal areas takes the form of signs.

28. (Previously presented): The authenticity evaluation method according to claim 26, wherein the signs form a repetitive pattern.

29. (Previously presented): The authenticity evaluation method according to claim 19 or 20, wherein the conducting areas are made from organic conducting polymers.

30. (Previously presented): The authenticity evaluation method according to claim 29, wherein the conducting areas comprising organic conducting polymers are printed with small characters from a printing medium.

31. (Previously presented): The authenticity evaluation method according to claim 19 or 20, wherein the conducting areas are constructed from organic polymers and metal.

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32. (Currently amended): ~~The~~ An authenticity evaluation system for evaluation of the authenticity of substrates having a security facility, the system comprising:

a substrate having a security facility, which security facility consists essentially of a non-conducting plastic support, on which at least two conducting areas spaced apart are provided, wherein the at least two conducting areas spaced apart are directly electrically interconnected by means of respective diode connections with a predetermined conducting direction; and

means for detecting the conducting direction of the security facility and for comparing the detected conducting direction with a reference conducting direction.

33. (Currently amended): A permanent security facility for use as security in substrates, such as security and value documents, security, value and banknote paper and the like, in particular for use in an authenticity evaluation method ~~according to claim 19~~ comprising multiple steps of detecting the conducting direction of the security facility, and comparing the detected conducting direction with a reference conducting direction, said permanent security facility consisting essentially of a non-conducting plastic support, on which at least two conducting areas spaced apart are provided, wherein the at least two conducting areas spaced apart are directly electrically interconnected by means of respective diode connection with a predefined conducting direction, such that said security facility can be checked multiple times.

34. (Currently amended): A security paper, in particular banknote paper, comprising a permanent security facility, said permanent security facility consisting essentially of a non-conducting plastic support, on which at least two conducting areas spaced apart are provided, wherein the at least two conducting areas spaced apart are directly electrically interconnected by means of respective diode connections with a predefined conducting direction, such that said

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security facility can be checked multiple times.

35. (Currently amended): Permanent security facility for use as security in substrates, such as security and value documents, security, value and banknote paper and the like, in particular for use in an authenticity evaluation system ~~according to claim 32~~ comprising means for detecting the conducting direction of the security facility and for comparing the detected conducting direction with a reference conducting direction, said permanent security facility consisting essentially of a non-conducting plastic support, on which at least two conducting areas spaced apart are provided, wherein the at least two conducting areas spaced apart are directly electrically interconnected by means of respective diode connection with a predefined conducting direction, such that said security facility can be checked multiple times.